

Attachment C

Agency Letters

- **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **Maine Historic Preservation Commission**
- **Maine Natural Areas Program**



John E. Baldacci
Governor

Roland D. Martin
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Division – Region A
358 Shaker Rd.
Gray, ME 04039
Phone: (207) – 657-2345 x 109
Fax: (207) – 657-2980
Scott.Lindsay@maine.gov

March 22, 2006

Kevin Slattery
HNTB Corporation
75 State St.
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Kevin,

You contacted this office requesting information on any wildlife habitats of management concern occurring on a parcel of land proposed for the development of the West Gardiner Service Plaza on the Maine Turnpike. This property is located between the Maine Turnpike and I-295 and south of State Route 126 in the Town of West Gardiner, Maine.

Based upon a review of the most current data available, there are no known essential or significant wildlife habitats, nor any documented occurrences of rare, threatened or endangered species at or adjacent to this property. I am not aware of any significant vernal pools on this property, though no formal surveys have been conducted. Vernal pools of management concern include those showing documented reproduction of the following species; wood frog, spotted salamander, four-toed salamander, blue-spotted salamander and fairy shrimp.

Though most development does reduce the quantity and quality of wildlife habitat for a variety of species, a well designed development, at this location, that maintains some undisturbed travel corridors and a diversity of cover types with as little site modification as feasible, would have minimal negative impact on regional wildlife goals and management objectives.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Lindsay".

Scott Lindsay
Asst. Regional Wildlife Biologist



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Maine Field Office – Ecological Services
1168 Main Street
Old Town, ME 04468
(207) 827-5938 Fax: (207) 827-6099

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region5/ES/MEFO

February 2, 2006

Mr. Kevin Slattery
HNTB Corporation
75 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Slattery:

Thank you for your letter dated December 29, 2005 requesting information or recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This form provides the Service's response pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667d).

Project Name/Location: ME Turnpike Authority Northerly Service Plaza Project
Log Number: 6-145

Based on the information currently available to us, no federally-listed species under the jurisdiction of the Service are known to occur in the project area, with the exception of occasional, transient bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Accordingly, no further action is required under Section 7 of the ESA, unless: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Please contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Natural Areas Program for an up to date account of state-listed species in the project area.

If you have any questions, please call me at (207) 827-5938.

Sincerely,

Mark A. McCollough
Endangered Species Biologist



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

January 18, 2006

Kevin Slattery
Sr. Environmental Specialist
HNTB Corporation
75 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Project: MHPC #3315-05 - proposed Maine Turnpike Authority Northern Service Plaza;
Maine Turnpike and I-295
Town: West Gardiner, ME

Dear Mr. Slattery:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the information received December 30, 2005 to initiate consultation on the above referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Based on the information provided, I have concluded that there will be no historic properties [architectural or archaeological] affected by the proposed undertaking.

Please contact Mike Johnson of this office if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer



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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
157 HOSPITAL STREET
93 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0093

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

PATRICK K. MCGOWAN
COMMISSIONER

January 11, 2006

Kevin Slattery, Senior Environmental Specialist
HNTB Corporation
75 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Rare and exemplary botanical features, proposed MTA Northerly Service
Plaza Project, West Gardiner.

Dear Mr. Slattery:

I have searched the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Data System files in response to your request of December 29, 2005 for information on the presence of rare or unique botanical features documented from the vicinity of the project site in the Town of West Gardiner, Maine. Rare and unique botanical features include the habitat of rare, threatened or endangered plant species and unique or exemplary natural communities. Our review involves examining maps, manual and computerized records, other sources of information such as scientific articles or published references, and the personal knowledge of staff or cooperating experts.

Our official response covers only botanical features. For authoritative information and official response for zoological features you must make a similar request to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 284 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333.

According to the information currently in our Biological and Conservation Data System files, there are no rare botanical features documented specifically within the project area. This lack of data may indicate minimal survey efforts rather than confirm the absence of rare botanical features. You may want to have the site inventoried by a qualified field biologist to ensure that no undocumented rare features are inadvertently harmed.

If a field survey of the project area is conducted, please refer to the enclosed supplemental information regarding rare and exemplary botanical features documented to occur in the vicinity of the project site. The list may include information on features that have been known to occur historically in the area as

well as recently field-verified information. While historic records have not been documented in several years, they may persist in the area if suitable habitat exists. The enclosed list identifies features with potential to occur in the area, and it should be considered if you choose to conduct field surveys.

This finding is available and appropriate for preparation and review of environmental assessments, but it is not a substitute for on-site surveys. Comprehensive field surveys do not exist for all natural areas in Maine, and in the absence of a specific field investigation, the Maine Natural Areas Program cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of unusual natural features at this site.

The Natural Areas Program is continuously working to achieve a more comprehensive database of exemplary natural features in Maine. We would appreciate the contribution of any information obtained should you decide to do field work. The Natural Areas Program welcomes coordination with individuals or organizations proposing environmental alteration, or conducting environmental assessments. If, however, data provided by the Natural Areas Program are to be published in any form, the Program should be informed at the outset and credited as the source.

The Natural Areas Program has instituted a fee structure of \$75.00 an hour to recover the actual cost of processing your request for information. You will receive an invoice for \$75.00 for our services.

Thank you for using the Natural Areas Program in the environmental review process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions about the Natural Areas Program or about rare or unique botanical features on this site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raquel Ross', is written over the printed name.

Raquel Ross
Information Manager
93 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0093
207-287-8046
Raquel.ross@maine.gov

Enclosures

Rare or Exemplary Botanical Features in the Project Vicinity

Documented within a four mile radius of the proposed MTA Northerly Service Plaza, West Gardiner.

Scientific Name Common Name	Last Seen	State Rarity	Global Rarity	State Legal Status	Federal Legal Status	Habitat Description
Bidens hyperborea Estuary Bur-marigold		S3	G4	SC		
Juncus alpinoarticulatus Alpine Rush		S2	G5TS?	T		
Panax quinquefolius American Ginseng		S2	G3G4	E		
Phegopteris hexagonoptera Broad Beech Fern		S2	G5	SC		
Wolffia columbiana Columbia Water-meal		S2	G5	T		
Zosterella dubia Water Stargrass		S2S3	G5	T		